

come about when we go into this area of the law and we get a lot of input from people who actually are working on petitions, we get a lot of input from people across the State of Nebraska and their opinions during the hearing process and all that is given to the members of the Government Committee. We talked about it for quite some period of time. I think this was probably the most talked about or close to it, the most talked about bill in Government Committee this year. We went over each of the provisions. We went over suggested amendments that were given to us by the citizens committee, a group that is very involved in the petition process in Nebraska and I think we struck at least a balance on some of the differences that individuals had between the task force that was set up and their recommendations and people who actually work on petition in the State of Nebraska. And many of the recommendations from both sides were brought together. We used some from each source and we came up, as a committee, with the committee amendments. I think it was very balanced. It's a very balanced committee in Government. It's interesting discussions that we have in the committee, and for those of you who don't have the time or can't take the time to look over these types of legislations, I would ask that you simply either talk to the people who were in the Government Committee at the time that we amended this bill and look at some of the information that we have. I could send it all out to the floor but you know it gets to the point where you can't look at everything that everybody sends out anyway, but you're welcome to see the suggestions from the different committees that came in and testified on the bill and suggested changes to the bill and I assure you this committee amendment is a very balanced committee amendment. I think we addressed the concerns of everybody involved. It might not be exactly what Senator Schimek wanted but it certainly was what the committee decided that they wanted, and I would hope that you would give that some thought when you're deciding on whether to amend the committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I rise in support of the Schimek amendment. The issue before you is one that has been of concern to the Legislature for some time. As I indicated when we discussed the other measure, constitutional amendment on petition circulators, we have, as a Legislature, for many years taken a dim view of paid petition circulators and had banned those by statute. not allowed for paid petition